NEWS RELEASE

Hon. Robert T. Matsui

Member of Congress

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MATSUI ANNOUNCES PASSAGE OF FUNDING FOR SACRAMENTO FLOOD PROTECTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Representative Robert T. Matsui (D-Sacramento) announced today the House overwhelmingly approved funding for critical flood protection for Sacramento. The funding will go to the construction of the Folsom Dam Mini-Raise and to rehabilitating levees along the American River. Both projects are essential to protecting Sacramento from catastrophic flooding.

"This is a great success in solving Sacramento's public safety and flood protection needs," Matsui said. "Sacramento is the most at-risk river city in the nation. The construction of the Mini-Raise will allow the area to handle a storm far greater than any recorded event the American River has witnessed. This funding will help protect a regional economy that supports over one million people, over 100 schools, six major hospitals and 26 nursing homes.

"After nearly two decades of working on this important safety issue, Sacramento is a critical step closer to receiving the flood protection it needs and deserves."

Also included in the flood control package is funding for a permanent bridge to replace the Folsom Dam Road, which was closed in February due to security concerns.

The funding was passed as part of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). WRDA, H.R. 2557, authorizes more than \$4 billion for construction of water resource development projects by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for flood control, navigation, beach erosion, and environmental restoration. The bill also establishes an independent peer review process for Corps projects costing more than \$50 million.

"I want to thank Representative John Doolittle for his hard work and cooperation on addressing the region's water supply and public safety needs. I also want to thank the Chairman Don Young and Ranking Democratic Member James Oberstar of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee for their help in putting together a workable package to deal with Northern California's flood control, environmental, homeland security and transportation concerns."

The final vote in the House was 412-8. The bill will now move to the Senate for consideration in the Energy and Public Works Committee. The Mini-Raise enjoys the support of both California Senators.

"This remains my top priority in Congress and I look forward to working with the Senate on completing this legislation," Matsui said.